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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02
IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /070 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS
----------012030 097770 /53
O 012013Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044992

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SHUM, UY

SUBJECT: URUGUAYAN PROTEST REGARDING SECRETARY'S STATE-
MENT BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
OPERATIONS

1. AMB. PEREZ CALDAS CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRE-
TARY LUERS AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 28 TO PRESENT FOLLOWING
NOTE VERBAL:

BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF URUGUAY PRESENTS ITS COMPLI-
MENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND IN CONNECTION WITH
THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE BEFORE THE
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS,
WISHES TO EXPRESS THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
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CONSTITUTES AN INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF URUGUAY WHICH IS EMPHATICALLY REJECTED, SINCE IT
IS INAPPROPRIATE AND VIOLATES RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW.

2. EXPRESSIONS OF THE KIND THAT CAUSE THIS NOTE DO
NOT CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING THE BEST OF THE

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RELATIONS AS HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN URUGUAY AND THE

UNITED STATES EVER SINCE URUGUAY'S BIRTH AS A
NATION AND WHICH WISHES TO STRENGTHEN.

3. URUGUAY HAS NOT REQUESTED FROM THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY FUTURE
PROGRAM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THEREFORE IN THIS
CASE THE REFERENCE TO A REDUCTION OR EXCLUSION
IS NOT ACCURATE.

THE EMBASSY OF URUGUAY AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.

2. LUERS SAID THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE NOTE VERBAL ONLY
WITH THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT REJECTS ITS FIRST POINT THAT THE SECRE-
TARY'S STATEMENT CONSTITUTED INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF URUGUAY OR VIOLATED THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. LUERS SAID THAT THE ISSUE THE
SECRETARY ADDRESSED BEFORE CONGRESS WAS WHETHER TO OFFER
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO URUGUAY. OUR DECISION HAD BEEN
NEGATIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS. THIS WAS A QUESTION
OF THE ALLOCATION OF U.S. RESOURCES WHICH IS AN INTERNAL
DECISION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CAN IN NO WAY BE IN-
TERPRETED AS INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
URUGUAY OR IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. LUERS
SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE SECRETARY IN HIS REMARKS
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DID NOT SUGGEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY HOW IT SHOULD
ORGANIZE ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT WE HAD, AS
THE AMBASSADOR IS AWARE, EXPRESSED IN THE PAST, HOWEVER,
OUR CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN URUGUAY.

3. PEREZ CALDAS RECALLED THE LONG FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES AND FOR THAT REASON, HE SAID, URUGUAY TAKES
HARD THE PRESENT ACTIONS OF THE USG. THE AMBASSADOR SAID
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOTICED THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT
THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE "SELECTIVE" IN ITS DE-
CISIONS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT URUGUAY,
LONG A FRIEND OF THE U S., WONDERS WHY IT WAS SELECTED
AS A TARGET SAYING THAT IT PROBABLY IS AN EASY TARGET
BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE AND BECAUSE THE U.S. HAS NO VITAL
INTERESTS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY. NEVERTHELESS,
URUGUAY HAS A LONG TRADITION OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN VALUES.
FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN AFTER RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL
SECURITY WAS TRANSFERRED FROM POLICE TO MILITARY DURING
TUPAMARO PERIOD ALL BUT A SMALL NUMBER OF TUPAMAROS WERE

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PUT IN JAIL, NOT EXECUTED. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT RECOG-

NITION OF URUGUAY'S PROBLEMS. POLITICAL PRISONERS, HE CLAIMED, REALLY DO NOT EXIST AS THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES OR PLANNED TO DO SO. THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS LAST YEAR ON URUGUAY WERE COMPLETELY LOPSIDED IN FAVOR OF THE OPPOSITION.

4. LUERS THEN EXPLAINED THE CHANGED ATTITUDE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY AND TO THE WORLD OF REASSERTING OUR VALUES FOLLOWING THE DIFFICULT PERIOD WE HAD BEEN THROUGH THE LAST DECADE. HE SAID SOME AMERICANS HAVE LOST FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT A FOREIGN
POLICY CONSISTENT WITH AMERICAN VALUES. LUERS ALSO SAID THAT OUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMIS-PHERE FIND SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IN THE EX-
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PRESSIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. LUERS STRESSED THAT IT IS THE HOPE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT THE CON-DITIONS WILL DEVELOP IN URUGUAY AND IN THE U.S. THAT WILL EVENTUALLY PERMIT A RETURN TO THE CLOSE RELATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED IN THE PAST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT URUGUAY HAS ONE OF THE MOST CIVILIZED TRADITIONS IN THE HEMISPHERE AND TRUSTS THIS WILL FIND EXPRESSION IN THE FUTURE. PEREZ CALDAS AGREED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HOPED FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS.

5. PEREZ CALDAS THEN RAISED ERRONEOUS REUTERS REPORT TO EFFECT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO URUGUAY HAD BEEN CUT TO $25,000 FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REASONS. HE WAS ASSURED THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND WAS TOLD WE HAD CABLED EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO EXPLAINING THE REUTERS ERROR (STATE 42441).

6. LUERS CONCLUDED BY REITERATING TO THE AMBASSADOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE NOTE VERBAL ONLY WITH THE UNDER-STANDING THAT WE REJECTED POINT ONE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, COMMUNIQUES, APPROPRIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2948342
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Subject: URUGUAYAN PROTEST REGARDING SECRETARY\'S STATE- MENT BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY, (PEREZ CALDAS)
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/148412ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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